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17 January 1951

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

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1. Mr. Reber [] had luncheon on the 16th of January with Mr. James Angleton of OSO. The discussion turned about problems of support for OSO in the light of the reorganization, especially that involving ORR. There was an examination of OSO's need for three categories of support:

- (1) Studies on Communist Party activities.
- (2) Special regional studies.

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2. As to (1), there was indicated a need for a group of high intellectual calibre to produce integrated and organized studies on Communist Party activities. Such studies would be of such a degree of detail as would be of value to operations (as opposed to policy). They would be based on research and on highly classified information in the possession of OSO. Such a Communist Party intelligence group might be possibly established in ORR, State or OSO.

3. Comment: There appear to be two distinct needs to be filled by organized information on Communist Party activities: (1) the policy need, which is for the broader picture involving the examination of CP activities as a guide to future developments and as a possible indicator of courses of Soviet action; and (2) the operational need for a detailed picture of the organization and operation of Communist Party units. The difference in objective as well as the differing degree of detail required suggests the need for separate units to handle these two requirements, or at least of a Communist Party intelligence group which allows internal specialization along these lines.

4. On (2), there is a need for continuing intensive studies of a high degree of detail (as opposed to the extensive NIS studies) on specific regional units. This requires extensive research and continuous access to materials in the other IAC agencies. The use of the NIS machinery was suggested as a possible device by which this need might be met.

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25X1 6. Security considerations were said by Mr. Angleton not to be his major concern in any of these problems, but he appeared reluctant to see these support functions pass out of CIA. The adequacy of OIC, both as to personnel and as to its interest in performing such support functions were questioned. This will be examined in a conversation to be arranged between Mr. Angleton and [redacted]

7. Action:

25X1 a. Mr. Reber is to arrange a meeting between [redacted]
Mr. Angleton.

25X1 b. [redacted]

25X1 c. The appropriate study of international Communism is to be further examined in the conversation between [redacted] and Mr. Angleton, and in O/IC.

JAMES O. REBER
Acting Assistant Director
for Intelligence Coordination

25X1 DISTRIBUTION:

[redacted]
Mr. Angleton

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